Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

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Who we are

The Office of Policy and Legal Analysis (OPLA) is a nonpartisan staff office of the Maine Legislature operating under the auspices of the Legislative Council. Staff is prohibited from taking or advocating political positions on policy issues. OPLA observes strict confidentiality policies and guidelines.

What we do

OPLA provides nonpartisan committee staff services to the Legislature's joint standing committees (except committees with jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and taxation issues) and select committees.

Services to committees include:

- Assisting in the scheduling of committee work;
- Conducting impartial policy and legal research and analysis and assisting the committee with their consideration of legislation;
- Preparing and drafting committee papers (committee bills, amendments, reports), whether unanimous, majority or minority; and
- Providing assistance in review of major substantive rules, of agencies under the Government Evaluation Act (GEA), and of agency budgets.

Other services include:

- Assisting legislators with information requests, including preparing general legal and policy background materials;
- Conducting approved interim staff studies (nonpartisan research and analysis);
- Providing professional staff services to interim legislative studies, including nonpartisan research and analysis, scheduling and report preparation;
- Assisting the Revisor of Statutes in drafting legislative bill requests; and
- Preparing and presenting committee status reports to legislative leadership.

Publications

OPLA prepares annual and biennial publications, including:

- Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws (annual summary of all legislation proposed and laws enacted in the prior session);
- Reports of interim and on-going study commissions; and
- Legislators' Handbook (updated biennially)